



Kayaking on Lake McDonald

NPS Photo / Bill Hayden

GETTING TO GLACIER

DRIVING

Approach from the east via U.S. Highways 2 and 89. U.S. Highway 2 is also the primary access route from the west. In Canada, Alberta Highways 5 and 6 provide direct access to Waterton Lakes National Park, while Alberta Highway 2 continues across the border providing access to the east side of Glacier. There may be road construction on some of these roads. Glacier’s road updates are available via the Montana 511 System by dialing 511 (a free call) on any Montana phone.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Amtrak stops year-round at West Glacier (Belton), The Izaak Walton Inn at Essex, and seasonally at East Glacier. Bus service may be available to locations outside the park. The nearest airports in Montana are located in Kalispell, Missoula, and Great Falls.



Going-to-the-Sun Road.

photo / David Restivo



Bird Woman Falls.

NPS photo / Bill Hayden

VISIT US ONLINE

Visitors looking for information online about Glacier should visit the park website at nps.gov/glac. In addition to the website, Glacier shares photos, videos, and information about the park on various social media platforms. Search for “GlacierNPS” on the following:

Facebook

Instagram

Twitter

YouTube

Flickr

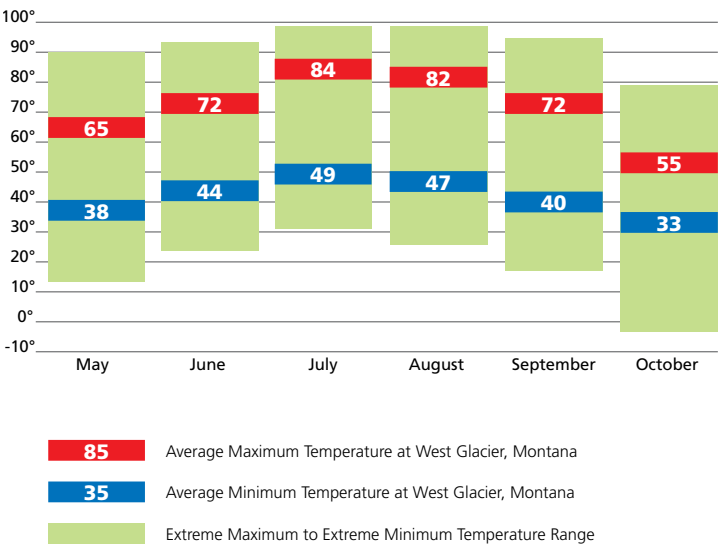
WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Glacier’s summer weather is as varied as its landscape. Warm days and cool nights are the norm. Even when it’s in the 80s and 90s in the daytime it can cool down into the 40s at night. Rain is common in May and June followed by great summer weather in July and August. September and October are cooler, but often the days are quite pleasant and the summer crowds are mostly gone.

The western valleys generally receive the most rainfall, but daytime temperatures can exceed 90 degrees F. It is frequently 10 to 15 degrees cooler at higher elevations, like Logan Pass. Strong winds and sunny days often predominate on the east side of the park.

The following chart shows the historic maximum and minimum temperature range for West Glacier, in light green. Average daytime highs and lows are indicated for each month. Overnight lows throughout the park can drop to freezing, and snow can fall anytime.

Prepare for a variety of weather conditions and pack accordingly. You may start the day in a T-shirt and shorts, and need a sweater or parka by evening. Dress in layers and always bring rain gear!



TRIP PLANNING

Travel Montana

VisitMT.com / (800) 847-4868

Blackfeet Indian Reservation

Immediately east of Glacier National Park lies the home of the Blackfeet Nation.

Glacier-Waterton Visitors Association

P.O. Box 96, West Glacier, MT 59936

Flathead Convention & Visitor Bureau

FCVB.org / (800) 543-3105

Bigfork, MT

BigFork.org / (406) 837-5888

Columbia Falls, MT

ColumbiaFallsChamber.org / (406) 892-2072

Cut Bank, MT

(406) 873-4041

Kalispell, MT

KalispellChamber.com / (406) 758-2800

Whitefish, MT

WhitefishChamber.com / (406) 862-3501

Travel Alberta

TravelAlberta.com / (800) 252-3782

Calgary, Alberta

CalgaryChamber.com / (403) 750-0400

Lethbridge, Alberta

LethChamber.org / (403) 327-1586

Waterton Park, Alberta

MyWaterton.ca / (403) 859-2224

AREA PUBLIC LANDS

Big Hole National Battlefield

(406) 689-3155

Bighorn Canyon Natl. Recreation Area

(406) 666-2412

Fort Union Trading Post Natl. Historic Site

(406) 572-9083

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

(406) 846-2070 ext 250

Little Bighorn Battlefield Natl. Monument

(406) 638-2621

Nez Perce National Historical Park

(208) 843-7001

Yellowstone National Park

(307) 344-7381

Flathead National Forest

(406) 758-5200

Kootenai National Forest

(406) 293-6211

Lewis & Clark National Forest

(406) 791-7700

NEED TO KNOW

IN AN EMERGENCY

Dial 911. If possible, contact a park ranger.

PARK REGULATIONS

Regulations are designed to protect park resources and preserve the quality of your visit. Park rangers and wardens strictly enforce park regulations.

- Do not feed or disturb wildlife.
- Do not remove any natural or cultural features like flowers, rocks, artifacts, or antlers.
- Berry picking (including huckleberries) is limited to one quart/person/day.
- Do not pick mushrooms.
- Open alcohol containers in a motor vehicle are prohibited.
- Seatbelts, or the appropriate child restraint system, must be worn by all occupants of motor vehicles.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Montana Hospitals & Clinics:

Northern Rockies Medical Center
802-2nd St. E., Cut Bank, MT
(406) 873-2251

Kalispell Regional Medical Center
310 Sunny View Lane, Kalispell, MT
(406) 752-5111

North Valley Hospital
1600 Hospital Way
Whitefish, MT
(406) 863-3500

Teton Medical Center
915 4 NW, Choteau, MT
(406) 466-5763

West Glacier Clinic
100 Rea Road, West Glacier, MT
(406) 888-9924
Memorial Day through Labor Day

ACCESSIBILITY

A listing of Glacier’s accessible facilities and programs accessible is available at visitor centers and entrance stations, or you may request a copy by contacting Glacier National Park.

The Apgar and St. Mary Visitor Centers, the Trail of the Cedars, Running Eagle Falls Nature Trail, part of the Swiftcurrent Nature Trail, the International Peace Park Pavilion, the Linnet Lake Trail (near the town of Waterton), the Waterton Townsite Trail, and the Cameron Lake Day Use area are all accessible by wheelchair.

PETS

Pets are permitted in campgrounds, along roads, and in parking areas. Pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet, under physical restraint, or caged at all times. Pet owners must pick up after their pets and dispose of waste properly. Pets are not to be left unattended and are not permitted on trails, in the back-country, or in any building.

FIREARMS

The possession of loaded firearms is legal in national parks. People can openly carry legal handguns, rifles, shotguns and other firearms and concealed guns if allowed under state statutes and permits. Firearms are prohibited in federal facilities. Check with the state of Montana for specifics at: doj.mt.gov/enforcement/concealed-weapons or dojmt.gov/features/frequently-asked-firearms-questions

The federal law does not change existing laws and regulations that prohibit the use of firearms in national parks. Hunting is illegal and target practice is also banned.

It is important to note that no single deterrent is 100% effective fending off threatening and attacking bears but compared to all others, including firearms, the proper use of bear spray has proven to be the best method for preventing injury to the person and animal.

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS



INVASIVE SPECIES

Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park is dominated by large fjord-like glacial lakes. For many visitors they are a primary destination. Boating, fishing, or just plain hanging out on the shore and skipping rocks are the stuff of magical memories. We need your help to keep it that way.

On the surface things look fine, but in the past stocking of non-native fish changed the ecosystems of most park lakes. These fish out compete native species for food and habitat. We need to prevent additional non-native species of animals or plants from accidentally being introduced, because each small change effects the overall health of park waters.

Now there is a new and serious threat. Imagine a future where going to your favorite rock-skiing beach, you find the shoreline matted with tens of thousands of small mussel shells, with everything cemented together in a sharp, smelly mess. Imagine once productive fisheries wiped out by these new invaders. It’s not science fiction, impacts are already occurring in waters in the Great Lakes, eastern provinces and states, the prairies and plains, and more recently in the southwest United States.

Since the 1980’s freshwater zebra and quagga mussels have steadily advanced westward, presumably transported on trailered boats. In February of 2012 a mussel-carrying boat was intercepted at a marina on Flathead Lake. The boat had come from the southwest. Flathead Lake is just downstream from Glacier.

Protecting the waters of the Peace Park requires immediate action, both by the parks and by every boater. This summer a permit to launch a boat in either park is mandatory. The regulations specific to each park are slightly different.

BOATING PERMITS

- Motorized boats and trailered watercraft, such as sailboats, will need an inspection and launch permit. Other watercraft will need a self-certification form (available at ranger stations, visitor centers, backcountry permit offices, and at many boat launches). The signed form should be kept while on the water.
- Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, permits will be available 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Park Headquarters, in West Glacier. Permits are also available, between 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the St. Mary Visitor Center, and the Two Medicine and Many Glacier Ranger Stations. Boaters in the North Fork should obtain permits at Park Headquarters. Boaters planning on early morning or late evening trips should plan accordingly.
- A new permit will be required upon each entry into the park. A boat may launch multiple times provided the boat does not leave the park between launches.
- A full inspection will be required for each permit. Inspections may take upwards of 30 minutes. Boaters should factor inspection time into their recreation plans.
- To qualify for a permit, boats must be clean, drained and thoroughly dry (including bilge areas and livewells) on inspection.
- Boats with internal ballast tanks or other enclosed compartments that exchange water with the environment, that cannot be readily opened and fully inspected are prohibited within Glacier National Park.
- Boats that fail to pass the inspection will be denied a permit. Boaters may re-apply for a permit after the boat is thoroughly cleaned, drained and dried.
- Boats found with certain infestations of aquatic invasive species may be quarantined until they can be fully decontaminated. Depending on the infestation, this may take up to 30 days.

ROADS AND TRAVEL

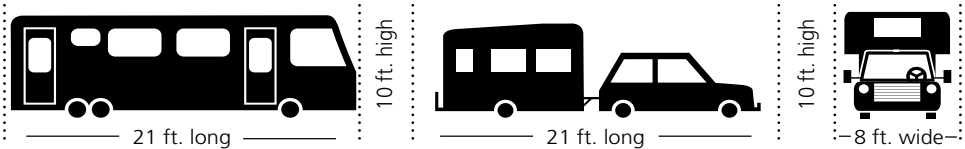
TOURING

Park roads offer access to some of the most spectacular mountain scenery in the world. Take time to enjoy the views. If more than four vehicles stack up behind you, please use a pullout to let them pass safely. Be aware of wildlife along the roads, especially at dusk or at night. Animals often dart out in front of vehicles. Children may dart out in front of vehicles as well, so please watch for pedestrians along the road. Obey the posted speed limit.

The park’s **SHUTTLE SYSTEM** allows access to many destinations along the Going-to-the-Sun Road, while enjoying the spectacular scenery by riding on one of the park’s optional and environmentally-friendly shuttle buses. The shuttle system operates on the Sun Road early July through Labor Day between the Apgar Transit Center and St. Mary Visitor Center with stops at key visitor facilities, campgrounds and trailheads, including Logan Pass. There is no additional charge to ride the shuttle, no tickets are required, and

transit stops are clearly marked along the Going-to-the-Sun Road. Bus schedules are posted at each shuttle stop, at informational kiosks available inside visitor centers and transit centers, and online at: nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/usingshuttle.htm.

Portions of the **GOING-TO-THE-SUN ROAD** scenic route remain open year-round. Due to ongoing road rehabilitation projects, the alpine section of the road (over Logan Pass) will not open prior to the Friday before the third full weekend in June, and may open later depending on weather and plowing progress. A section on the east side of Logan Pass will close for the season on the Monday after the third full weekend in September. Logan Pass will remain accessible from the west side of the park until the third week of October, weather permitting.



ROAD REHABILITATION will continue between Siyeh Bend and the boundary of St. Mary on the east side of the park. Between June 19 at 7am (weather permitting) and September 21 at 7am visitors and staff should expect a maximum of a 30 minute total delay. There are no expected nighttime delays.

VEHICLE SIZE RESTRICTIONS are in effect in order to help reduce congestion. Vehicles, and vehicle combinations, longer than 21 feet (including bumpers) or wider than 8 feet (including mirrors), are prohibited between Avalanche Campground and Rising Sun. Vehicle and vehicle combinations over 10 feet in height may have difficulty driving west from Logan Pass to the Loop, due to rock overhangs. Stock vehicles are able to access Packers Roost and Siyeh Bend.

ENTRANCE FEES

Single Vehicle Pass..... \$30.00
Valid for 7 days

Single Person Entry \$15.00
By foot, bicycle, or motorcycle for 7 days

Glacier National Park Pass.....\$45.00
Valid for 1 year from month of purchase

The Federal Interagency Pass (\$80), Senior Pass (\$10), Access Pass (free), and Active Military Pass (free) are available at Park Headquarters and park entrance Stations.

Special fees are charged for commercial tour vehicles.

There is no single fee that covers entrance into both parks. Glacier National Park and Waterton Lakes National Park charge separate entrance fees.

WHERE TO STAY

LODGING

Nine lodges and inns provide a range of accommodations including rooms in historic hotels dating back to the early 1900s, modern motels, rustic cabins, and backcountry chalets. Reservations are encouraged. Accommodations fill early.

	Open	Last Night
Swiftcurrent Motor Inn	6/16	9/19
Lake McDonald Lodge	5/22	9/29
Rising Sun Motor Inn	6/19	9/12
Many Glacier Hotel	6/10	9/20
Village Inn	5/29	9/19

For information and reservations:

Glacier National Park Lodges
(855) 733-4522
GlacierNationalParkLodges.com

	Open	Last Night
Motel Lake McDonald	5/29	9/26
Apgar Village Lodge	5/22	9/26

For information and reservations:

Glacier Park, Inc.
(406) 892-2525
GlacierParkInc.com

Granite Park Chalet, accessible by trail only, operates as a hikers’ shelter from late June through early September. Linen service is available. All guests must bring their own food. Reservations are required.

Sperry Chalet, accessible by trail only, operates as a full-service backcountry hotel from July through early September. Services include overnight accommodations, with full linen service and meals. Reservations are required.

	Open	Last Night
Granite Park Chalet	7/1	9/11
Sperry Chalet	7/10	9/11

For information and reservations:

Belton Chalets, Inc.
(888) 345-2649
GraniteParkChalet.com
SperryChalet.com

For lodging and campground accommodations outside the park, check the TravelMT website at [VisitMT.com](#).



Lake McDonald Lodge Lobby.

NPS photo

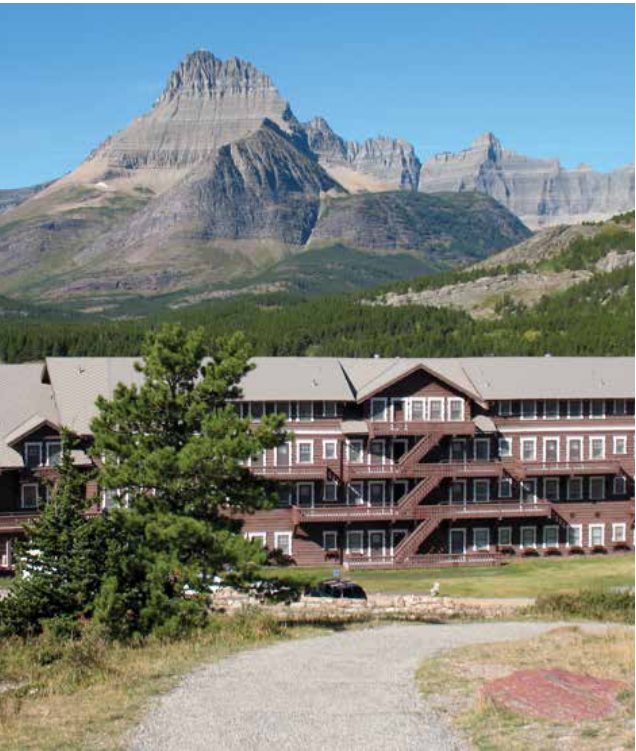
CAMPGROUNDS

Camping is permitted only in designated campgrounds. All campgrounds, except Fish Creek, St. Mary and half of the group sites at Apgar, are available on a “first-come, first-served” basis. Regulations are posted at each campground. Utility hookups are not provided.

Ten **GROUP SITES** at Apgar, two at St. Mary and one each at Many Glacier and Two Medicine campgrounds, will accommodate parties of 9-24 people. The fee is \$60 (\$65 for the reservable group sites at Apgar and St. Mary).

CAMPFIRES are permitted only in designated campgrounds and picnic areas where grates are provided. Collecting firewood is prohibited except along the Inside North Fork Road from Dutch Creek to Kintla Lake, along the Bowman Lake Road, in the St. Mary Campground (in 2015 only), and around backcountry campgrounds that permit fires.

Sites are available for **BICYCLISTS AND HIKERS**. These shared sites hold up to eight people. The fee is \$5 per person. Sites at St. Mary may be reserved and have an additional reservation fee.



Many Glacier Hotel.

NPS photo

Campground Information						
Estimated Dates	Fee	Sites	Flush Toilets	Disposal Station	Hiker Biker	For Larger RV's and Additional Information
Apgar* May–mid-Oct.	\$20.00	192	Yes	Yes	Yes	The largest 25 sites have a maximum parking space of 40'. Primitive camping is available after listed dates.
Avalanche June–early Sept.	\$20.00	87	Yes		Yes	The largest 50 sites have a maximum parking space of 26'.
Bowman Lake mid-May–mid-Oct.	\$15.00	48				Campground accessible by dirt road, large units not recommended. Primitive camping is available after listed dates.
Cut Bank June–early Sept	\$10.00	19				Campground accessible by dirt road, large units not recommended. Primitive camping only, no potable water.
Fish Creek* June–early Sept.	\$23.00	180	Yes	Yes	Yes	The largest 18 sites have a maximum parking space of 35'. 62 additional sites will accommodate up to 27'.
Kintla Lake mid-June–mid-Sept.	\$15.00	13				Campground accessible by dirt road, large units not recommended. Primitive camping is available after listed dates.
Logging Creek July–Sept.	\$10.00	8				Campground accessible by dirt road, large units not recommended. Primitive camping only, no potable water.
Many Glacier late May–Sept.	\$20.00	110	Yes	Yes	Yes	The largest 13 sites have a maximum parking space of 35'. Primitive camping is available after listed dates.
Quartz Creek July–Nov.	\$10.00	7				Campground accessible by dirt road, large units not recommended. Primitive camping only, no potable water.
Rising Sun late May–mid-Sept.	\$20.00	84	Yes	Yes	Yes	The largest 10 sites have a maximum parking space of 25'.
Sprague Creek mid-May–mid-Sept.	\$20.00	25	Yes		Yes	No towed units. Some sites have a maximum parking space of 21'.
St. Mary* late May–Sept.	\$23.00	148	Yes	Yes	Yes	Three sites up to 40' and 22 sites up to 35'. Primitive camping is available after listed dates.
Two Medicine late May–Sept.	\$20.00	100	Yes	Yes	Yes	The largest 10 sites have a maximum parking space of 35'. Primitive camping is available after listed dates.
Camping is permitted only in designated campgrounds. Campgrounds in primitive status have no water available. *Fish Creek and St. Mary Campgrounds, in addition to 5 Group Sites in Apgar Campground may be reserved through the National Park Service Reservation System. Call (877) 444-6777 or visit recreation.gov for specific reservation information.						

PARK SERVICES

RESTAURANTS

Apgar:	Eddie’s Restaurant
Lake McDonald:	Russell’s Fireside Dining Room Jammer Joe’s Grill & Pizzeria
Many Glacier:	Ptarmigan Dining Room Italian Garden Ristorante
Rising Sun:	Two Dog Flats Grill

WORSHIP SERVICES

Interdenominational and Roman Catholic services are held in campground amphitheaters and other locations within the park. For listings of times and locations, please consult a ranger in the campground or at one of the park visitor centers.

CAMPSTORES AND GIFT SHOPS

Apgar:	Eddie’s Campstore The Cedar Tree Schoolhouse Gifts Montana House of Gifts
Lake McDonald:	Lake McDonald Lodge Gift Shop Lake McDonald Lodge Campstore
Many Glacier:	Many Glacier Hotel Gift Shop Swiftcurrent Campstore Heidi’s
Rising Sun:	Rising Sun Campstore
Two Medicine:	Two Medicine Campstore

CASH MACHINES

West Glacier:	Near the Photo Shop
Apgar:	Eddie’s
Lake McDonald:	Lake McDonald Lodge Lobby
St. Mary:	St. Mary Lodge and Park Cafe
Many Glacier:	Many Glacier Hotel
East Glacier:	Glacier Park Lodge
Rising Sun:	Rising Sun Campstore
Swiftcurrent:	Swiftcurrent Motor Inn Lobby

OTHER SERVICES

Additional services are available in Babb, East Glacier, Essex, Polebridge, St. Mary, West Glacier, and along U. S. Highway 2.

THINGS TO DO

HIKING

Over half of the visitors to Glacier report taking a hike. That’s a lot of hikers, but over 700 miles of trail provide many outstanding opportunities for short hikes, strenuous day hikes, or extended backpacking trips.

Good day hikes are plentiful, and free maps to popular trails are available at park visitor centers. Visitor center bookstores carry a complete line of trail guides, topographic maps, and field guides to aid hikers. Publications are also available by mail. To place an order call the Glacier National Park Conservancy at (406) 888-5756 or visit GlacierConservancy.org

WILDLIFE WATCHING

Many animals are more active at dusk and dawn. However, hiking alone or after dark is never recommended in bear country. Look in a variety of habitats. One of the park’s most remarkable features is the diversity of habitats it offers. You will see different animals in forests than on the prairie or in marshy areas. Spend some time away from the roads. Glacier offers fine short walks that can reward wildlife watchers.

Learn about animal behavior. Knowing when and where to look is important. For example, in autumn elk congregate in large groups around St. Mary. Harlequin ducks and American Dippers frequent the fast moving sections of streams and creeks. Golden eagles use the McDonald Creek valley in their fall migration.

RANGER-LED PROGRAMS

Several times daily, rangers guide easy strolls, short half-day hikes, or vigorous all-day hikes. Each evening, at major campgrounds, the campfire circle is the place to meet for programs on a host of topics to help visitors learn about and enjoy their park. Illustrated slide programs are offered nightly at Fish Creek Campground Amphitheater, St. Mary Visitor Center, Lake McDonald Lodge, and Many Glacier Hotel.

The Ranger-led Activities newspaper and schedule is available throughout the park and online. Schedules are posted online about 3 weeks before each program segment begins. Segments covers 3-4 weeks. Programs start early to mid-June and conclude in September. Information at: nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/ranger-led-activities.htm



Listening to a Ranger-led Program at Logan Pass. photo / David Restivo

BOATING

Pick up a copy of the park’s boating regulations at a visitor center or entrance station to learn about specific requirements on each lake. To guard against the introduction of aquatic invasive species, a boat inspection is **required** prior to launching boats.

To protect nesting Harlequin Ducks, the section of Upper McDonald Creek between Mineral Creek and Lake McDonald is closed to boating and floating from April through September 30.

One U.S. Coast Guard approved, wearable, personal floatation device (per person), of the appropriate size for the intended user, must be carried on board. This included kayaks, canoes, and paddle boards. Personal watercraft (jet skis) are prohibited on all park waters.

FISHING

A license is not required, but there are regulations that need to be followed. The general park fishing season is from the third Saturday in May to November 30. Lakes are open year-round. Several bodies of water are either closed to fishing or are catch-and-release only. Use of bait, lead weights, and sinkers is prohibited. Stop at a visitor center to obtain a copy of the current regulations.

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING

Hikers planning to camp overnight in Glacier’s backcountry must obtain a backcountry use permit. Some backcountry permits may be reserved in advance. For information on obtaining a backcountry reservation, check our website at: go.nps.gov/backcountry

BICYCLING

Bicyclists are responsible for complying with all traffic regulations and must ride under control at all times. Keep to the right side of the road, riding in single file and pull over if four or more vehicles stack up behind you. During periods of low visibility, or between sunset and sunrise, a white light or reflector visible from a distance of at least 500 feet in front and a red light or reflector visible from at least 200 feet to the rear must be exhibited on the operator or bicycle. The more visible you are, the safer you will be! Bicycles are prohibited on all trails. Watch for falling rocks, drainage grates, debris, and ice on the road. Helmets are recommended.

From June 15 through Labor Day, the following sections of the Going-to-the-Sun Road are closed to bicycle use between 11am and 4pm:

- Apgar turnoff (south end of Lake McDonald) to Sprague Creek Campground. (8 miles)
- Eastbound from Logan Creek to Logan Pass (12 miles). Allow 45 minutes to ride from Sprague Creek to Logan Creek and three hours from Logan Creek to Logan Pass. Roads are narrow; please ride safely.
- Prior to June 19 at 7am (weather Permitting) and after September 21 at 7am, the road is closed to all traffic between Siyeh Bend and the St. Mary campground (Monday - Friday) and open to hiking and bicycling on weekends.



Father and son fishing in the park. photo / Chris Downs



Hiker Overlooking Grinnell Lake. photo / Jacob W. Frank

ELEVATIONS

Lake McDonald	3150ft.....	960m
Logan Pass.....	6640ft.....	2024m
Many Glacier	4900ft.....	1494m
Polebridge	3600ft.....	1097m
St. Mary Lake.....	4500ft.....	1372m
Two Medicine	5150ft.....	1570m
Walton	3900ft.....	1189m
Waterton.....	4200ft.....	1280m

TOURS AND TRIPS

BUS TOURS

Narrated tours are offered by Glacier National Park Lodges between park lodges, as well as East Glacier, West Glacier, St. Mary, and the Apgar Visitor Center. For information and reservations:

Glacier National Park Lodges
(855) 733-4522
GlacierNationalParkLodges.com

Sun Tours offers interpretive tours in Glacier National Park from May 15 to October 15. Tours highlight Blackfeet culture and history relating to Glacier National Park’s natural features. Tours begin from the Apgar and St. Mary Visitor Centers, as well as motels and campgrounds located in St. Mary, East Glacier, Browning and West Glacier. For information and reservations:

Sun Tours
(800) 786-9220 or (406) 226-9220
GlacierSunTours.com

GUIDED HIKING TRIPS

Glacier Guides offers guided day hikes and backpacking trips into the backcountry. For information and reservations:

Glacier Guides, Inc.
(406) 387-5555 or (800) 521-7238
GlacierGuides.com

HORSEBACK RIDES

Horseback rides are provided by Swan Mountain Outfitters at the following locations: Apgar (near the Glacier Institute Field Camp), Lake McDonald Lodge, and Many Glacier Hotel. They also provide drop camp services into Glacier’s backcountry. For information and reservations:

Swan Mountain Outfitters
(406) 387-4405 or (877) 888-5557
SwanMountainOutfitters.com/glacier

BOAT TRIPS AND RENTALS

Narrated boat cruises are offered at Lake McDonald, Many Glacier, Rising Sun, Two Medicine, and Waterton (in Waterton Lakes National Park, Canada). Optional free guided walks are offered in conjunction with some trips. Boat rentals available at some locations. For information and reservations:

Glacier Park Boat Company
(406) 257-2426
GlacierParkBoats.com

For Waterton:

Waterton Inter-Nation Shoreline Cruise Company
(403) 859-2362
WatertonCruise.com

RAFT TRIPS

Many local rafting companies offer trips on the Middle and North Forks of the Flathead River, immediately adjacent to the park. For information contact the following companies:

Glacier Raft Company
P.O. Box 210, West Glacier, MT 59936
(406) 888-5454 or (800) 235-6781
GlacierRaftco.com

Great Northern Whitewater
P.O. Box 270, West Glacier, MT 59936
(406) 387-5340 or (800) 735-7897
gnwhitewater.com

Montana Raft Company
P.O. Box 330, West Glacier, MT 59936
(406) 387-5555 or (800) 521-RAFT
GlacierGuides.com

Wild River Adventures
P.O. Box 272, West Glacier, MT 59936
(406) 387-9453 or (800) 700-7056
RiverWild.com

HAVE FUN AND STAY SAFE

DROWNING

Drowning is the number one cause of fatalities in Glacier. Please use extreme caution near water. Swift, cold glacial streams and rivers, moss-covered rocks, and slippery logs all present dangers. Children, photographers, boaters, rafters, swimmers, and fishermen have fallen victim to these rapid, frigid streams and deep glacial lakes. Avoid wading in or fording swift streams. Never walk, play, or climb on slippery rocks and logs, especially around waterfalls. When boating, don't stand up or lean over the side, and always wear a life jacket.

Sudden immersion in cold water (below 80° F) may trigger the “mammalian diving reflex.” This reflex restricts blood from outlying areas of the body and routes it to vital organs like the heart, lungs, and brain. The colder the water, the younger the victim, and the quicker the rescue, the better the chance for survival. Some cold-water drowning victims have survived with no brain damage after being submerged for over 30 minutes.

Drowning Revival Procedure

- Retrieve victim from water without endangering yourself.
- Prevent further body heat loss, but do not rewarm.
- Near-drowning victims may look dead. Don't let this stop you from trying to revive them! If there is no pulse, start CPR regardless of the duration of submersion.
- Delayed symptoms may occur within 24 hours. Victims must be evaluated by a physician.

TICKS

Ticks are most active in spring and early summer. Several serious diseases, like Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, can be transmitted. Completely remove attached ticks and disinfect the site. If rashes or lesions form around the bite, or if unexplained symptoms occur, consult a physician

HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia, the “progressive physical collapse and reduced mental capacity resulting from the chilling of the inner core of the human body,” can occur even at temperatures above freezing. Temperatures can drop rapidly. Sudden mountain storms can turn a pleasant hike into a drenching, bitterly cold and life-threatening experience. People in poor physical condition or who are exhausted are particularly at risk.

Prevention

- Avoid hypothermia by using water-resistant clothing before you become wet.
- Wear clothing that wicks moisture away.
- Minimize wind exposure and if your clothes become wet, replace them.
- Avoid sweating by dressing in layers, rather than in a single bulky garment.
- Pack a sweater, warm hat, and rain gear for any hike.

Warning Signs

- Uncontrolled shivering, slow or slurred speech, memory lapses and incoherence, lack of coordination such as immobile or fumbling hands, stumbling, a lurching gait, drowsiness, and exhaustion.

Immediate Treatment

- Seek shelter from weather and get the victim into dry clothes.
- Give warm non-alcoholic drinks.
- Build a fire and keep victim awake.
- Strip victim and yourself, and get into sleeping bag making skin-to-skin contact.
- If victim is semi-conscious or worse, get professional help immediately.

SNOW AND ICE

Snowfields and glaciers present serious hazards. Snow bridges may conceal deep crevasses on glaciers or large hidden cavities under snowfields, and may collapse under the weight of an unsuspecting hiker. Don't slide on snowbanks. People often lose control and slide into rocks or trees. Exercise caution around any snowfield.

STEEP TERRAIN

Many accidents occur when people fall after stepping off trails or roadsides, or by venturing onto very steep slopes. Stay on designated trails and don't go beyond protective fencing or guard rails. Supervise children in such areas. At upper elevations, trails should be followed carefully.

HANTAVIRUS

Deer mice are possible carriers of Hantavirus. The most likely source of infection is from rodent urine and droppings inhaled as aerosols or dust. Initial symptoms are almost identical to the onset of flu. If you have potentially been exposed and exhibit flu-like symptoms, you should seek medical care immediately.

Avoid rodent infested areas. Camp away from possible rodent burrows or shelters (garbage dumps and woodpiles), and keep food in rodent-proof containers. To prevent the spread of dust in the air, spray the affected areas with a water and bleach solution (1½ cups bleach to one gallon of water).

MOUNTAIN LIONS

A glimpse of one of these magnificent cats would be a vacation highlight, but you need to take precautions to protect you and your children from an accidental encounter. Don't hike alone. Make noise to avoid surprising a lion and keep children close to you at all times. If you do encounter a lion, do not run. Talk calmly, avert your gaze, stand tall, and back away. Unlike with bears, if attack seems imminent, act aggressively. Do not crouch and do not turn away. Lions may be scared away by being struck with rocks or sticks, or by being kicked or hit.

Lions are primarily nocturnal, but they have attacked in broad daylight. They rarely prey on humans, but such behavior occasionally does occur. Children and small adults are particularly vulnerable. Report all mountain lion encounters immediately!



Baring Falls. photo / Jacob W. Frank



Rocky Mountain Wood Tick. photo / Jacob W. Frank

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

Thanks to a private donation to our Junior Ranger Program children who complete a hike, in addition to doing all the other required activities in the Glacier Junior Ranger booklet, will receive our new “Let's Move” sticker along with their Junior Ranger badge.

Glacier National Park is joining with First Lady Michelle Obama's nationwide *Let's Move* campaign to encourage children to get active. The benefits of hiking in Glacier go far beyond getting exercise. Spectacular scenery, wildlife viewing, beautiful wildflowers, connecting with nature, and quality time with family and friends are some that immediately come to mind. However, it's not always that easy to hike with children. Safety concerns, fickle weather, physical limitations, not knowing the trail, and time constraints can all become good excuses for staying inside.

The good news is that Glacier has 734 miles of trail and there are many family friendly options for children of all abilities. For younger children or beginning hikers, start small with one of our level and paved nature trails. For children and families who want more of a challenge, see our *Day Hikes in Glacier* newspaper. Make sure you are familiar with our Bear Safety guidelines and check the weather before you go. If you're still not sure you want to brave it on your own, join one of our Ranger-led hikes suitable for families and children. A schedule can be found in the *Ranger-led Activity Guide*.

Children who become Glacier Junior Rangers learn about the significant reasons this area was designated a national park. Now along with sharing that knowledge, we hope they will talk about their hiking accomplishment with friends and family and encourage others to get outside and stay active. They'll be part of a new generation of Let's Move Outside Junior Rangers.



Our classrooms are the mountain trails and vast river basins that are home to more than 1,200 species of native plants, over 270 species of birds and nearly 70 species of native mammals. Our instructors are recognized experts in their fields, published authors, wildlife biologists, college professors, naturalists and teachers. We host one, two and three-day outdoor educational workshops and youth camps which immerse our participants in Glacier's stunning and stimulating environment. **Please join us for a learning adventure you will never forget.**

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WELCOME TO BEAR COUNTRY

DON'T SURPRISE BEARS

Bears will usually move out of the way if they hear people approaching, so make noise. Most bear bells are not loud enough. Calling out and clapping hands loudly at regular intervals are better ways to make your presence known. Hiking quietly endangers you, the bear, and other hikers. Don't hike alone or after dark!

A bear constantly surprised by quiet hikers may become habituated to close human contact and less likely to avoid people. This sets up a dangerous situation for both visitors and bears.

DON'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS

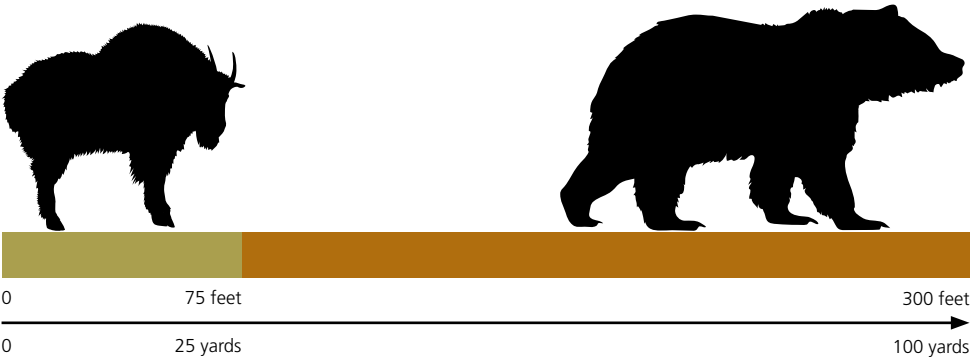
You can't predict when and where bears might be encountered along a trail. People often assume they don't have to make noise while hiking on a well-used trail. Some of the most frequently used trails in the park are surrounded by excellent bear habitat. People have been charged and injured by bears fleeing from silent hikers who unwittingly surprised them along the trail. Even if other hikers haven't seen bears along a trail section recently, don't assume that bears aren't there.

Don't assume a bear's hearing is any better than your own. Some trail conditions may make it hard for bears to see, hear, or smell approaching hikers. Be careful by streams, against the wind, or in dense vegetation. A blind corner or a rise in the trail also requires special attention.

DON'T APPROACH BEARS

Bears spend a lot of time eating, so be especially alert in obvious feeding areas like berry patches, cow parsnip thickets, or fields of glacier lilies. Keep children close by. Hike in groups and avoid hiking early in the morning, late in the day, or after dark.

Never intentionally get close to a bear. Individual bears have their own personal space requirements which vary depending on their mood. Each will react differently and its behavior can't be predicted. All bears can be dangerous and should be respected.



Approaching, remaining, viewing or engaging in any activity within 100 yards of bears or wolves, or within 25 yards of any other wildlife is prohibited.

BEAR ENCOUNTERS

A commonly asked question is “What do I do if I run into a bear?” There is no easy answer. Like people, bears react differently to each situation. The best thing you can do is to make sure you have read all the suggestions for hiking and camping in bear country and follow them. Avoid encounters by being alert and making noise.

Bears may appear tolerant of people and then attack without warning. A bear's body language can help determine its mood. In general, bears show agitation by swaying their heads, huffing, and clacking their teeth. Lowered head and laid-back ears also indicate aggression. Bears may stand on their hind legs or approach to get a better view, but these actions are not necessarily signs of aggression. The bear may not have identified you as a person and is unable to smell or hear you from a distance.



Brown colored black bear lured into scenic overlook by leftover picnic scraps. NPS photo

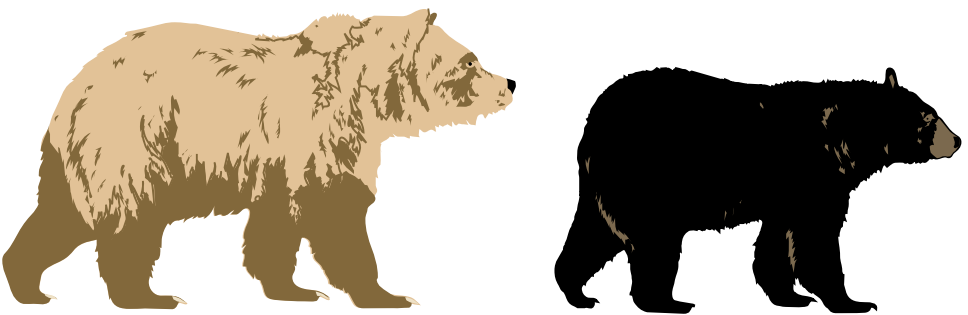
ROADSIDE BEARS

It's exciting to see bears up close, but we must act responsibly to keep them wild and healthy. If you see a bear along the road, please do not stop. Stopping and watching roadside bears will likely start a “bear jam” as other motorists follow your lead. “Bear jams” are hazardous to both people and bears as visibility is reduced and bears may feel threatened by the congestion. Roadside bears quickly become habituated to vehicles and people, increasing their chances of being hit by motor vehicles. Habituated bears may learn that it is acceptable to frequent campgrounds or picnic areas, where they may gain access to human food. When a bear obtains human food, a very dangerous situation is created that may lead to human injury and the bear's death. Please resist the temptation to stop and get close to roadside bears – put bears first at Glacier National Park.

GRIZZLY OR BLACK BEAR

Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park is home to both black and grizzly bears. Even for experts, it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between the species. The following clues will help you to tell the species apart.

Color is not a reliable indicator of species. Contrary to their name, black bears also come in brown, cinnamon, and blond. Grizzlies range from blond to nearly black. Grizzlies sometimes have silver-tipped guard hairs that give them a “grizzled” appearance.



	Grizzly Bear	Black Bear
Shoulder:	Hump	No hump
Ears:	Short rounded	Taller
Face:	Dished profile	Straight profile
Front Claws:	Long, light ~ 2-4” long	Short, dark ~ 1.5” long

BEAR ATTACKS

The vast majority of bear attacks have occurred because people have surprised a bear. In this type of situation the bear may attack as a defensive maneuver. In rare cases, bears have attacked at night or after stalking people. These types of attacks are very serious because it may mean the bear is viewing you as prey. If you are attacked at night or if you feel you have been stalked and attacked as prey, try to escape. If you cannot escape or if the bear follows, use bear spray, or shout and try to intimidate the bear with a branch or rock. Do whatever it takes to let the bear know you are not easy prey. If you surprise a bear, here are a few guidelines to follow that may help:

- Stop. Talk quietly or not at all. Do not run! Do not drop your backpack. Back away slowly, but stop if it seems to agitate the bear.
- Think and Observe. Quickly assess the situation. Does the bear see you? Is the bear behaving defensively or some other way? Is it a grizzly or black bear? Are there cubs present? Avoid direct eye contact with the bear as this may seem threatening.
- Plan. Can you safely move away? If you can, do so. Is your bear spray accessible and ready to use? Which way is the wind blowing? What will you do if the bear charges? Never drop food for the bear!
- Act. If the bear attacks and you have bear spray, use it! If the bear makes contact, protect your chest and abdomen by falling to the ground on your stomach, or assuming a fetal position to reduce the severity of an attack. Cover the back of your neck with your hands. If you have a pack on, it may help protect your back. If it's an attack by a defensive grizzly bear, try to remain quiet and motionless until the attack ends. Don't try to leave until you're sure the bear has left the scene. If it's a black bear, or if the attack is prolonged and no longer defensive, fight back!

BEAR SPRAY

This aerosol pepper derivative triggers temporarily incapacitating discomfort in bears. It is a non-toxic and non-lethal means of deterring bears.

There have been cases where bear spray apparently repelled aggressive or attacking bears and accounts where it has not worked as well as expected. Factors influencing effectiveness include distance, wind, rainy weather, temperature extremes, and product shelf life.

If you decide to carry spray, use it only in situations where aggressive bear behavior justifies its use. Bear spray is intended to be sprayed into the face of an oncoming bear. It is not intended to act as a repellent. Do not spray gear or around camp with bear spray.

Under no circumstances should pepper spray create a false sense of security or serve as a substitute for standard safety precautions in bear country.

Be aware that you may not be able to cross the U.S./Canada border with some brands of bear spray. Canadian Customs will allow the importation of USEPA-approved bear spray into Canada. Specifications state that the bear spray must have USEPA on the label.

OVERNIGHT CAMPING

Odors attract bears. Our campgrounds and developed areas can remain “unattractive” to bears if each visitor and employee manages food and trash properly. Regulations require that all edibles (including pet food), food containers (empty or not) , and cookware (clean or not) be stored in a hard-sided vehicle, food locker, or hung when not in use, day or night.

- Keep a clean camp! Improperly stored or unattended food will likely result in confiscation of items and/or issuance of a Violation Notice.
- Inspect campsites for bear sign and for careless campers nearby. Please notify a park ranger of any potential problems that you may notice.
- Place all trash in bearproof containers.
- Pets, especially dogs, must be kept under physical restraint.
- Report all bear sightings or encounters to the nearest ranger or warden immediately.

PARK ATTRACTIONS

THE ENTRANCE ROAD

These 8 kilometres (5 miles) provide magnificent views that beautifully illustrate the park’s theme, “where the mountains meet the prairie.”

Colourful prairie flowers and grasses, and the glittering blue chain of the Waterton Lakes, are set against a mountain backdrop. The sight of the historic Prince of Wales Hotel National Historic Site, on a knoll above the lakes, indicates you will soon arrive at our lakeside community.

THE AKAMINA PARKWAY

This route begins near the townsite and runs for 16km (10 miles) along the Cameron Valley. Points of interest include the site of western Canada’s first producing oil well, the Oil City site, and scenic Cameron Lake.

THE RED ROCK PARKWAY

Red Rock Parkway meanders over rolling prairie and through the Blakiston Valley. It ends at the strikingly coloured rocks and cascades of Red Rock Canyon, a distance of 15km (9 miles). The drive features views of magnificent mountains, including Mt. Blakiston, the park’s highest peak.

CHIEF MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY

The Chief Mountain Highway is the primary route between Waterton Lakes and Glacier National Parks. The highway climbs from the grasslands near Maskinonge Lake to a viewpoint giving a magnificent vista of the Front Range of the Rockies and Waterton Valley. Enroute to the border crossing, the road traverses fields and forests, dotted with wetlands created by Crooked Creek.

THE MASKINONGE LAKE

The park’s diversity of habitats are home to a great variety of birds; over 250 species have been identified in Waterton. The Maskinonge area, located near the Park Entrance, is particularly rich in bird life.

CAMERON FALLS

Located in the community, this picturesque waterfall is created as Cameron Creek falls into Waterton Valley.

THE BISON Paddock

The Bison Paddock, near the north entrance to the park off Highway 6, features a small herd of plains bison, maintained to commemorate the larger herds that once roamed freely in this area. The bison can be seen while driving a narrow road through the paddock. Please do not leave your vehicle. The road is not suitable for vehicles with trailers.

WILDLIFE

Bears, deer, elk, and bighorn sheep can be seen throughout the park, particularly in prairie areas. Sheep and deer frequent the community. Fall is probably the best time for wildlife watching. The larger animals come down from their summer ranges and waterfowl are on their migratory routes through the park.

WILDFLOWERS

An abundance of wildflowers can be seen in the park. In spring and early summer, prairie wildflower displays are particularly rich. In late summer and early fall, wildflowers are blooming at the higher elevations.

HIKING

There are 200km (120 miles) of trails in Waterton Lakes National Park. They range in difficulty from a short stroll to steep treks of several days duration. Trails are provided for a variety of users, including hikers, horse riders, and bicyclists. Watch for information signs at the trail head for the type of use permitted. Trails in Waterton also lead to extensive trail systems in Montana’s Glacier National Park and in British Columbia’s Akamina-Kishenina Provincial Park.



Arrowleaf Balsamroot. photo / Parks Canada



Bighorn Sheep. photo / Parks Canada

PARK SERVICES

LODGING

The Aspen Village Inn	(888) 859-8669
Bayshore Inn & Convention Centre	(403) 859-2211
Bear Mountain Motel	(403) 859-2366
Crandell Mountain Lodge	(866) 859-2288
Northland Lodge	(403) 859-2353
Prince of Wales Hotel	CAN (403) 236-3400 US (406) 892-2525
Waterton Glacier Suites	(403) 859-2004 (866) 621-3330
The Waterton Lakes Resort	(403) 859-2150 (888) 985-6343

OTHER SERVICES

Clothing and gift shops, bookstores, movie rentals, liquor store • a variety of cafes, restaurants, lounges and dining rooms • sporting supplies and hardware • post office • laundromat • service station • boat tours, bike and boat rentals • hiking tours, a horse riding facility • three churches • cash machines • art gallery • health and recreation centre,18-hole golf course, tennis court, ball diamond and playgrounds.

AUTO CAMPING

- Waterton’s three campgrounds provide almost 400 campsites.
- The Townsite Campground has 237 sites, including 94 fully-serviced. Fees vary depending on the service provided. Fires permitted in picnic shelter stoves. Reservations recommended. For information and reservations: Call (877) 737-3783 or visit reservation.parkscanada.gc.ca
 - The Crandell Mountain Campground has 129 semi-serviced sites and five tipis, and is located 8km down the Red Rock Parkway.
 - Belly River Campground, located on the Chief Mountain Highway 26km from the town, has 24 unserviced sites. Reservations can be made in advance for the group sites at Belly River. For information call: (403) 859-5133

PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS

Crooked Creek Campground	(403) 653-1100
Great Canadian Barn Dance	(403) 626-3407
Waterton Springs Campground	(403) 859-2247

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING

An overnight wilderness pass is mandatory and can be purchased at the Visitor Reception Centre. A per-person fee is charged for those 16 years and older. Passes are issued up to 24 hours in advance on a first-come, first-served basis. Call (403) 859-5133.

Wilderness campground use and group size is applied to minimize impact on the land, and maximize your wilderness experience. Waterton’s nine designated wilderness campgrounds offer dry toilets and surface water supply. Some have facilities for horses.



Carthew-Alderson Trail. photo / Parks Canada

PARK REGULATIONS

- Leave rocks, fossils, horns, antlers, wildflowers, nests, and other natural and historic objects undisturbed so that others may discover and enjoy them. Removal of such objects is subject to fines.
- It is unlawful to feed, entice, or touch park wildlife.
 - Pets must remain on a leash at all times while in the park. Pets, on a leash, are allowed on trails in Waterton Lakes National Park.
 - Camping is permitted only in designated areas, as marked by signs.
 - Motorcyclists must wear a helmet.
 - Collection of dead or downed wood is not allowed.
 - A national park fishing permit is required in Canada’s National Parks.

MORE INFORMATION

Contact Park Headquarters at:

Information
Waterton Lakes National Park
Box 200
Waterton Park, Alberta T0K 2M0
Phone (403) 859-5133
email: waterton.info@pc.gc.ca

Visit Waterton Lakes National Park online at: pc.gc.ca/waterton

